

VK2 Notes January & February 2012

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Welcome to 2012 from Amateur Radio News South Wales. ARNSW members are advised that their AGM will be held on Saturday the 21 st April 2012. Close of nominations and receipt of agenda items and notice of motions will be Saturday the 3 rd March 2012. Further details via VK2WI bulletins and the ARNSW web site www.arnsw.org.au AGM paperwork and other material is sent to members by either post or email. Please ensure that email and postal addresses are up to date with the membership secretary via membership@arnsw.org.au Recently the VK2 clubs listing on the ARNSW web site was changed from listed details to links to the various club sites.

The end of February is the annual Central Coast Field Day at the usual venue – Wyong Racecourse – on Sunday the 26 th, which has become the largest one in Australia. This long running event in the period round 1950's / 1960's was held in November at the Gosford Sailing Club. Then a move to the Gosford Showground for a couple of decades until the transfer to the present site at Wyong. ARNSW Assessors will again be at the field day for all grades of license assessment. Inquires to education@arnsw.org.au or telephone 02 9651 1490 / 0400 445 829 and leave contact details.

ARNSW has scheduled one day Foundation Courses every two months. The next will be on Sunday the 18 th March, with the assessments a week later. The weekly upgrade course for Standard and Advanced license for this year will resume on Monday the 5 th March and then each week except on public holidays. Contact details as above. All these activities are held at VK2WI - 63 Quarry Road, Dural. Readers are asked to pass on these details to those they may know who are seeking study and exam venues. See the ARNSW web site www.arnsw.org.au [click on] Training and Exams on the home page for details. Second edition WIA Foundation Manuals and 5 th edition of the Swainston Handbook available for collection from VK2WI. The next Trash & Treasure, exam assessments and Home Brew gathering at VK2WI on Sunday the 25 th March.

During the latter part of last year work was carried out at VK2WI to provide fire fighting facilities by making use of the rainwater tank on site. In addition, earthworks were carried out to install piping for underground feeds to the HF antennas, a ongoing project for much of this year. This year additional toilet facilities are being added.

During January many clubs have been in recess and will resume meetings in February. These include the Hunter Radio Group on Friday the 10 th at NBN Studios. Their VK2AWX news net starts up the previous Monday evening. HADARC meetings from the 14 th and 28 th February. St. George ARS on the 1 st February.

Waverley ARS have a Foundation Course over the weekend 11 th and 12 th February. education@vk2bv.org They recently changed access tone on VK2ROT 7025 to 91.5 Hz. No change on their 70 cm 8575. The Oxley Region ARC moved their mid week net to Thursday at 7.30 pm. They are developing an APRS node at the VK2RPM site as VK2RPM-1 on the Australian frequency of 145.175 Mhz. The weekly VK2BWI morse training session provided by Ross VK2ER and Geoff VK2BGP resumes Thursday the 2 nd on 3.550 Mhz at 2000 hours VK2 time. Ross thanks listeners for callbacks received last year. These are always taken at the end of each session and are most welcome. The Mid South Coast ARC is scheduled to have a quarterly meeting on Saturday the 11 th February. Looking ahead there is the annual Urunga Convention over Easter.

During the latter part of last year the NSW Government conducted a Planning Systems Review into the operations of local government. It was promoted from within the Amateur Radio Service as an opportunity to seek uniform Statewide regulations for the erection of towers and masts in their domestic locations. In excess of one hundred Amateurs put pen to paper [or keyboard] and made submissions to the review. In fact these were more than half the submissions received - it was reported. However it was subsequently advised at some public meetings that these antenna / tower submissions were outside the review guidelines. An Issues Paper on the review to date was released in December 2011 to which further submissions can be made by the 17 th February 2012.

73 – Tim VK2ZTM.